

"PERFINS"

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To the Members of Perfins Society

This article may or may not be of interest to the members of Perfins Society, it will show mostly what my experience has been with this hobby in the last forty years. I have a regular general stamp collection of over 40,000 different and any time I picked up a stamp which was mutilated with perfs thru the design I either scrapped same or if design or letters looked interesting I put it in a small box in my book case. After several years I woke up to the fact that certain firms used certain letters and designs in their stamps. From then on I printed the name and location of firm on stamps and also started keeping the upper part of the envelope with firm's name.

I stopped into a friend's drugstore some 30 years ago and talked to him about these so-called mutilated or perforated initial stamps (he by the way also dealt in stamps) that was where my misery started. He had bought three feed bags of U. S. stamps. He and his family worked on these quite a few weeks soaking drying and sorting them. The perforated ones were put in shoe boxes, some soaked off and some on paper and then I got them. From time to time I sorted them over keeping good copies and scraping poor copies and incomplete designs. It worked out about two good copies in ten. The heartache was that I got a lot of Perfins without knowing who used them. I have close to 2500 different designs. In checking catalog pages, I find the identify of quite a few—also find that I have quite some that do not appear in catalog. I also note that well over half of stamps listed have no identification notation. Here is where members of the society can come in if they are enough interested in the hobby. Each and every one should check their collection with the catalog and if they have any identifications as to place and firm on any catalog items or if they have any perfins that are not cataloged they could help to make

the catalog a better source of information if they would report this information to the president, Warren Travell, 1079 D St., San Bernardino, Calif.

Thanks for your attention.

F. F. Persans (91)

P.S.—In the last year I have submitted almost 200 additions, identifications, and corrections to the catalog pages. See what you can do to help the good work along.

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